

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6945

BILL NUMBER: SB 319

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 2, 2004

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Serial Meeting Violation of Open Door Law.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Gard

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a series of gatherings by the governing body of a state or local government agency violates the Open Door Law if:

- (1) less than a quorum of members of the governing body attend each gathering;
- (2) the total number of members attending all gatherings constitutes at least a quorum of the governing body; and
- (3) the gatherings are conducted for the purpose of conducting official business.

Effective Date: July 1, 2004.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Public Access Counselor:* Persons concerned with possible violations of the state's Open Door Law may ask the Public Access Counselor for an informal inquiry response or an advisory opinion prior to seeking remedy in a court. Any additional administrative impact on the Counselor as a result of this provision could presumably be absorbed using existing resources.

All public agencies are subject to the state's Open Door Law.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local public agencies are also subject to the state's Open Door Law.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: All; Public Access Counselor.

Local Agencies Affected: All.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: John Parkey, 317-232-9854.